

**PSY300-15**  
**Research Methods in Psychology (Fall 2021)**  
Mackinac Hall A2165  
6:00 pm - 7:15 pm MW

**Instructor:** Jerry S. Fisher, Ph.D.

**Email:** fishejer@gvsu.edu

**Office hours:** 1:00pm – 2:30pm MW & 1:00pm – 2:00pm F (Virtual or In-person at 2115 AuSable Hall).

**Textbook:** Research Methods: Core Concepts and Skills for Psychology v2.1 By: Paul C. Price ISBN (Digital): 978-1-4533-3551-2  
(Link: <https://students.flatworldknowledge.com/course/2597354>)

**Course Objectives:**

The aim of this course is to acquaint students with basic research methods in psychology while exploring practical, theoretical, and ethical issues regarding research design and its implementation in psychology. Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. describe the details of and summarize the essence of research articles.
2. write clearly and cogently in a scientific way.
3. design an empirical study consistent with the standards of psychological science.

**Lakers Together:**

Classes are held in person in Mackinac Hall A2165. Attendance is required as part of your participation score. Face coverings must be worn during class time, must cover the mouth and nose, and fit snugly against the sides of the face.

**In the Event of Illness:**

Make up exams and extensions to the writing deadlines will be available in the event of illness. If such an event happens, please provide me with official documentation, such as a physician's note.

**Holiday and Special Needs:**

Please let me know at the beginning of the semester if you will have to miss a class or reschedule an exam due to a religious holiday. The more notice I am given, the more likely it is that I can accommodate your needs.

Please also let me know at the beginning of the semester if you have a disability or special needs in the classroom or on exams. I will work with Disability Support Services to make accommodations for you.

### **Grade Breakdown and Scale:**

Your grades will be based on homework assignments (260 points total), three exams (600 points total), six writing assignments (640 points total), and attendance (100 points total). Your letter grade will be based on the proportion of these points that you receive out of the total 1600 possible (see the Grade Scale). The homework assignments are largely hosted by the FlatWorld website. The exams consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The writing assignments fulfill the SWS designation of this class and are intended to emulate an APA style research proposal. Extra credit opportunities will be announced in class.

<b>Grade Item</b>	<b>Points</b>
Homework	260
Participation	100
Exam 1	200
Exam 2	200
Exam 3 (Final)	200
Statement of Intent	80
Animal Research Ethics	80
Research Question	80
Annotated Bibliography	120
Hypothesis & Design	80
Research Proposal	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>1600</b>

### **Grade Scale:**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent</b>
A	94-100%	C+	78-79%
A-	90-93%	C	72-77%
B+	88-89%	C-	70-71%
B	82-87%	D	60-69%
B-	80-81%	F	0-59%

Grading is NOT on a curve. Your percentage will be rounded to the nearest integer (e.g., 87.4 → 87 or 87.5 → 88). In the interest of fairness, I will follow this rule strictly for all students.

### **SWS**

This course is designated SWS. Completion of WRT 150 with a grade of C or better (not C-) is a prerequisite. SWS credit will not be given to a student who completes this course before completing the prerequisite. SWS courses adhere to certain guidelines. Students turn in a total of at least 3000 words of writing. Part of that total may be essay exams, but a substantial amount of it is made up of essays, reports, or research papers. The instructor works with the students on revising drafts of papers, rather than simply grading the finished piece of writing. At least four hours of class time will be devoted to writing instruction. At least one third of the final grade in the course is based on the writing assignments. Students must complete the course with a grade of "C" or better in order to receive SWS credit. Students may receive SWS credit for taking the course as Credit/No Credit provided the student passes the course with a "Credit" grade.

**Schedule** (Note: This schedule is subject to change)

Monday	Wednesday	Ch	Lecture 1 (Monday)	Lecture 2 (Wednesday)	Writing HW	Writing Due
30-Aug	1-Sep	1	Scientific Psychology	Scientific Writing	Statement of Intent (9-1)	
No Class	8-Sep	2	<i>No Class: Labor Day</i>	Research Basics		Statement of Intent (9-8)
13-Sep	15-Sep	3	Research Ethics	Animal Research	Animal Research (9-15)	
20-Sep	22-Sep	4	Theories in Psychology	Exam Review		Animal Research (9-22)
27-Sep	29-Sep	5	<b>Exam 1</b>	Validity	Research Question (9-29)	
4-Oct	6-Oct	6, 7	Experimental Research	Nonexperimental		Research Question (10-6)
11-Oct	13-Oct	11	APA Formatting	Areas of Research	Annotated Bib (10-13)	
18-Oct	20-Oct	8-10	Complex Designs	Survey/ Single Subject		
No Class	27-Oct		<i>No Class: Fall Break</i>	Exam Review		Annotated Bib (10-27)
1-Nov	3-Nov		<b>Exam 2</b>	Intro / Methods	Hypothesis/Design (11-3)	
8-Nov	10-Nov	12, 13	Data (descriptive statistics)	Chi Sq / t.Test		Hypothesis/Design (11-10)
15-Nov	17-Nov	13	ANOVA	Correlation / Regression	Research Proposal (11-15)	
22-Nov	No Class		Results / Discussion	<i>No Class: Thanksgiving</i>		
29-Nov	1-Dec		Peer Review	Peer Review		
6-Dec	8-Dec	14	The Big Picture	Exam Review		Research Proposal (12-8)

Final Exam (Date TBA)

**GVSU Course Policies:**

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies>. At this website you can find all policies related to such topics as academic integrity, disabilities, inclusion, and discrimination. Please note that you are responsible for knowing and following the policies that are listed here. It is a good idea to read through them to familiarize yourself with them.

Note that violations of the academic integrity policy, including plagiarism or cheating on exams, will result in the student earning a failing grade for the assignment. If the violation is severe, the student will fail the course.